

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly for visualization and access within a body cavity comprising:

a sleeve having a distal end, a proximal end, and a first lumen therebetween;

a scope having a shaft with a distal end and a proximal end, the shaft being slidably positionable in the first lumen, a channel extending longitudinally through the shaft, and a lens in the channel near the distal end;

a transparent bulb connected to the distal end of the sleeve and being disposed at the distal end of the shaft outside of the channel and optically aligned with the lens when the scope is disposed within the first lumen; and

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a second lumen, the sleeve being slideable within the second lumen between a first position, where the transparent bulb is disposed within the second lumen, and a second position, where at least a portion of the transparent bulb extends beyond the distal end of the guide sleeve.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb is mounted to the distal end of the shaft.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb is mounted to an elongate sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen therebetween, the shaft being positionable in the lumen with the distal end of the shaft adjacent to the bulb.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb is substantially rigid.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb is made of a material selected from glass, acrylic, polystyrene, and polycarbonate.

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb has a distal surface, the distal surface being convex.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein sleeve has a length sufficient to reach an interior of a patient's heart from outside the patient's chest.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein the sleeve has a length of at least about 15 cm.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the transparent bulb comprises an expandable member, the assembly further comprising an inflation lumen in communication with the expandable member for delivering an inflation fluid thereto.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the sleeve is substantially rigid.

12. (Currently Amended) A contact scope for visualization within a body cavity comprising:

an elongate sheath having a distal end, a proximal end, a first lumen therebetween, and a transparent bulb mounted to the distal end aligned with the lumen; and

a scope slidably positionable in the first lumen, the scope having a shaft with a distal end, a proximal end and a channel therebetween, and a lens mounted in the channel near the distal end;

wherein the distal end of the shaft may be positioned within the first lumen adjacent to the transparent bulb to allow viewing through the lens and the bulb; and

a guide sleeve having a distal end and a second lumen, the sheath being slidable within the second lumen between a first position, where the transparent bulb is disposed within the second lumen, and a second position, where at least a portion of the transparent bulb extends beyond the distal end of the guide sleeve.

13. (Original) The contact scope of claim 12 wherein the transparent bulb is substantially rigid.

14. (Original) The contact scope of claim 12 wherein the transparent bulb is made of a material selected from glass, acrylic, polystyrene, and polycarbonate.

15. (Original) The contact scope of claim 12 wherein the transparent bulb has a transverse cross-sectional area larger than the transverse cross-sectional area of the shaft.

16. (Original) The contact scope of claim 12 wherein the transparent bulb has a distal surface, the distal surface being convex.

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Original) The contact scope of claim 12 further comprising a sleeve having an axial lumen, the sheath being removably positionable in the axial lumen.

19. (Currently Amended) A repair system for repairing a septal defect in a patient's heart, the repair system comprising the assembly of claim 1, and further comprising:

— a sleeve having a distal end, a proximal end, and a lumen therebetween;

— a scope having a shaft with a distal end and a proximal end, the shaft being slidably positionable in the lumen, a channel extending longitudinally through the shaft, and a lens in the channel near the distal end;

— a transparent bulb disposed at the distal end of the shaft optically aligned with the lens; and

— a septal defect closure device positionable through the lumen of the guide sleeve.

20. (Original) The repair system of claim 19 wherein the septal defect closure device comprises a delivery shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a patch releasably held at the distal end, the patch having a deployed configuration for positioning across a septal defect and a collapsed configuration for positioning through the lumen in the sleeve.

21-42 (Cancelled)